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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Strausberg Air Depot

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 4 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The air depot on Hegermuehlenstrasse was observed from 27 August to 11 September and from 30 September to 2 October 1953. The test stand for turbojet engines was in operation at 8:45 and 9 a.m. on 28 August and at 9 a.m. on 29 August each time for a period of two minutes.

2. The following incoming and outgoing shipments were observed at Strausberg air depot:

27 August. Truck with trailer [] loaded with small crates, probably containing ammunition and truck [] loaded with four 200 liter fuel drums, two in vertical and two in horizontal position, arrived at the depot. 25X1

31 August. Truck [] loaded with medium size crates and truck [] loaded with medium size rough crates arrived at the depot. 25X1

1 September. Incoming shipments included truck [] loaded with medium size rough crates and another truck with trailer [] old iron drums, small and medium rough crates, and some light-green painted equipment, apparently agricultural machines. 25X1

3 September. Outgoing shipment included three axle truck [] with one officer wearing red-bordered gold epaulets and three EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets. The load of the truck was low and covered with canvas. 25X1

8 September. Ten apparently new two-axle truck chassis without motor vehicle [] were fueled in front of the depot from fuel drums loaded on truck trailer [] of truck [] by about 20 soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets. The trailer carried a total of about 10 200-liter drums. The column left in the direction of the town. 25X1

10 September. Truck [] with an officer wearing red-bordered gold epaulets left the depot in the direction of the town. 25X1

11 September. Ten apparently new two-axle truck chassis left the depot escorted by truck [] with trailer [] carrying fuel drums. 25X1

1 October. Trucks [] repeatedly carried two turbojet crates, each 2.75 meters long, 1.5 meters wide and 1.8 meters high to the depot from the storage area located between repair shop and depot via Hegermuehlenstrasse. About 25X1

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16 such crates were moved to the depot, while 40 crates remained stored in an open shed at the storage area. The turbojet engines had probably arrived by rail during the night.

2 October. Truck [] loaded with cabbage left the depot for Strausberg airfield. Truck [] loaded with rough crates (60 x 50 x 40 cm) arrived at the depot. Trucks observed at the depot []

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3. Incoming shipments observed at Strausberg railroad station included:

10 September. Eight green [] three-axle vans and at least six [] single-axle trailers with low canvas-covered superstructures were towed by tractors to the depot. The vans which had no windows were fitted in front with a vertical tube, 2,20cm high and 22 cm in diameter, and with ventilation flaps in the rear.²

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30 September. Two green three-axle vans as reported above were moved to the depot by truck []

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1 October. Five vans and one trailer of the type described above were towed by truck []

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4. Strausberg air depot was observed from 2 to 11 September and from 21 September to 4 October 1953. While the air depot and the adjacent weapon repair plant were strictly separated previously, these security measures were recently lightened. Air force soldiers for the first time were frequently observed walking to the target range where they fired their guns. The attitude of the Soviets soldiers toward the Germans was extremely kind. Close cooperation between the air depot and the airfield was recently observed. Trucks with air force soldiers frequently drove to the air depot. Rumors that the airfield was heavily occupied were not confirmed. []³

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5. The number of incoming railshipments was very high. However, since the trains were mostly composed of boxcars, the load could not be determined. Incoming and outgoing shipments at the depot included:

2 September. Fifteen radio trucks, fitted with a canvas-covered mast support right aft of the driver's cabin and one two-wheel generator car arrived at the depot.

7 September. One turbojet engine arrived by rail.

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8 September. Truck [] escorted 10 trucks chassis in the direction of Vorstadt. A workman from Gruenau stated that the NAG plant at Schoeneweide fitted such trucks superstructures for radio or work shop trucks. The number of chassis arrived at the NAG Plants was apparently similar to the number of chassis leaving Strausberg.⁴ Sedan [] left the depot with high ranking officers and truck []
ked with a large red cross entered the depot.

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9 September. Incoming shipments included 12 radio trucks with a mast support and folding crank handle at the right front part of the vehicle, 12 two-wheel generator trailers, 3 troop carriers, 1 special purpose caterpillar truck, 1 two-wheel trailer which had the length of a van and was 1.80 to 2 meters high, 1 car with a braced tube threstle similar to a tubular jig, and 5 or 6 turbojet engines.

10 to 12 September. No incoming shipments were observed.

21 September. Incoming rail shipments included 15 turbojet engines and 8 boxcars. Outgoing rail shipment included 1 radio truck and 1 generator.

22 September. A column composed of 1 escorting truck, 4 radio trucks, 1 truck with two-wheeled trailer, both with canvas-covered open tops, and 1 caterpillar with tubular jig trailer, left the depot. One truck with generator, truck with trailer and truck entered the depot. Sedan left in the direction of the town. 25X1

23 September. Truck carrying soldiers drove to the depot. 25X1

25 September. Twenty-four truck chassis escorted by truck left the depot. 25X1

26 September to 4 October. Equipment arriving at the depot included 15 radio trucks and 7 generators. Unidentified equipment was unloaded from 20 boxcars.

1. Comment. Truck belonged to the Fourth Gds Mecz Army. The presence of this truck at the air depot tends to indicate that the army supplies the air force with small arms. 25X1

2. Comment. These radio trucks are probably of a type which is fitted with extendable telescopic masts and carries the power generator on a trailer.

3. Comment. This information indicates that the personnel of the air depot is subjected to military training.

4. Comment. According to previous information, 90 new truck chassis were observed in June and July 1952. 25X1

If all these chassis were converted to radio trucks, as described in the present report, the Twenty Fourth Air Army would be receiving equipment of new additional radio- or radar trucks. According to the information received, however, no noticeable number of new radio trucks had arrived at the units.

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